

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 27, 2014

The Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy
Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0108

Dear Assistant Secretary Darcy;

We write today concerning the Blanchard River feasibility study. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 (P.L. 1376) contains important provisions which are relevant to the funding of a study that we wanted to bring to your attention.

In the bill, Congress recognized that the Army Corps of Engineer's flood control projects can lead to significant economic benefits by avoiding damages caused by flooding. In recognition of these benefits, Congress provided the Corps a 10 percent increase in funding compared to the fiscal year 2013 enacted level and a 14 percent increase over the President's fiscal year 2014 budget request. This additional funding will enable the Corps the opportunity to fund additional studies not identified in the President's fiscal year 2014 budget request.

Congress specifically provided the Corps the authority to fund a study if "it has received funding, other than through a reprogramming, in at least one of the previous three fiscal years." The Blanchard River feasibility study last received funding, that was not reprogrammed, in fiscal year 2011 and as a result is eligible for funding under the authority provided in the appropriations bill.

Finally, the appropriations bill requires the Corps to consider prioritizing studies that enhance economic development, job growth, and competitiveness; and provide Congress a new work plan within 45 days.

As you know, the Blanchard River has repeatedly spilled over its banks, causing severe flooding in the City of Findlay and the Village of Ottawa. In 2007, the area suffered its most damaging flood event in nearly 100 years, forcing hundreds of residents to evacuate and halting operations at area businesses. It is crucial that we continue to work together to find a successful solution to protect these communities from future flooding.

Thank you again for your assistance and leadership with respect to advancing the Blanchard River Flood Risk Mitigation Project. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.



Sherrod Brown
U.S. Senator

Sincerely,



Rob Portman
U.S. Senator



Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress